RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
AUG 2 1 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of June 29, 2006 the Applicant respectfully submits the Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that each of the printhead modules which are arranged adjacent one another to form the claimed printhead have different printing widths, and the printer controller is configured to order and time the supply of dot data to the modules in order to compensate for both this difference in the printing widths and any relative displacement between the nozzles of the printhead modules. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in section 7.1.2 entitled "Bi-Lithic Printhead" at page 30, in section 9.1 entitled "Printing Rates" at page 44 and in sections 32.3, 32.4 and 32.4.1 respectively entitled "Data Rate Equalization", "Dot Generate and Transmit Order" and "Dual Printhead IC" at pages 527-530 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that pending (and above-discussed amended) independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from pending independent claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/727,245, because the differences between these claims is more than just "a printer controller being configured to order and time supply of dot data to the printhead modules" and a printer controller "being configurable during or after manufacture to order and supply of dot data to the printhead modules" as purported by the Examiner.

That is, pending independent claim 1 clearly recites that the printer controller is configurable to compensate for any displacement between the nozzles of the printhead modules, and above-discussed amended claim 1 recites that the printer controller is configurable to also compensate for the different relative printing widths of the printhead

modules. On the other hand, pending independent claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/727,245 clearly recites that the printer controller is configured to compensate for the different relative printing widths only.

Thus, the subject matter of the claims of the present application and copending Application No. 10/727,245 is entirely different and therefore patentably distinct.

Regarding 35 USC 102(e) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-discussed amended independent claim 1 and claim 2 dependent therefrom is not disclosed by Haflinger et al. (US 2002/0180816), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, as clearly recited in amended independent claim 1, the printhead is formed by abutting printhead ICs of different widths to extend across the required printing width, e.g., A4. The combination of different width printhead ICs enables the construction of various width printheads using pre-manufactured printhead ICs. In combining the printhead ICs to form a single printhead, displacements between the nozzles of the printhead ICs can occur which need to be compensated for to produce high quality prints.

However, in order to correctly compensate for these displacements, the printer controller needs to be configured to also compensate for the difference in the printhead IC widths (see section 7.1.2 entitled "Bi-Lithic Printhead" at page 30, section 9.1 entitled "Printing Rates" at page 44 and sections 32.3, 32.4 and 32.4.1 respectively entitled "Data Rate Equalization", "Dot Generate and Transmit Order" and "Dual Printhead IC" at pages 527-530 of the present specification).

On the other hand, Haflinger merely discloses constructing a scanning print head by vertically offsetting two print heads 1, 2 of equal width with an overlap therebetween to increase swath height, and is directed to compensating for misalignments between the overlapping nozzles of the print heads 1, 2 (see paragraphs [0007], [0008], [0029], [0030] and [0034] of Haflinger).

Thus, Haflinger does not disclose, nor suggests, arranging print heads of different widths adjacent one another and configuring a printer controller to compensate for the different widths in order to compensate for any displacement between the print heads, as required by amended independent claim 1.

Therefore, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Haflinger.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4 is not taught or suggested by Haflinger in view of Tayuki (US 2002/0113985), because similar to Haflinger, Tayuki merely discloses a system for compensating for misalignments in scanning printheads (see abstract of Tayuki), and therefore does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in the Haflinger.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicant/s:

Simon Robert Walmsley

Richard Thomas Plunkett

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762